

DETAILED ACTION

Status of Claims

1. Due to communications filed 2/10/12, the following is a non-final office action. Claims 1-18, 21-28 and 41-60 are cancelled. Claims 19, 20, 36-40, 61 and 63 have been withdrawn. Claim 29 is amended. Claims 65-66 are new. Claims 29-35, 62 and 64-66 are pending in this application and have been examined on the merits. Prosecution has been reopened.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 29-31, 33-35, and 62 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lewis, U.S. Publication No. 2003/0105641 and further in view of Takayama (US 20090125429 A1), and further in view of Drews et al (US 5467081).

As per claim 29, Lewis teaches an electronic ticket management method

(a)providing:

- (i)an event organizer apparatus, ([0010], The system of the present invention also allows consumers to gain access to and to display their purchased tickets on Internet enabled or connected handheld devices, such as personal communications system cellular phones or pages or personal organizer type devices such as a portable digital assistant devices, for subsequent validation at the event to permit entry);
- (ii) an electronic ticket platform center which is separate from the event organizer apparatus, ([0028]. The main computer system 158 is capable of hosting numerous websites which presents virtual venues or various pages to the customer computer 152. A customer operating the customer computer 152 is able to interact with the various websites being hosted by the main computer system 158 to review various events, select an event, purchase tickets, receive tickets, and pay for tickets, [0031], main computer system, also, [0028] shows that the customer computer 152 is capable of being connected to the Internet by use of an ISP system 154. The customer computer 152 is connected to the ISP system 154 by a telephone connection 156. The ISP system 154 is further capable of connecting or finding a website being hosted by a main computer system 158. In this case, the two systems being separate from each other is suggested by Lewis through use of an Internet connection. Examiner interprets that the above two systems of Lewis are separate systems which use an Internet connection means to communicate); and

(iii) an electronic ticket distribution authentication apparatus, ([0031], The main computer system 188 also has a validation system 192 connected to the main computer system 188 by an electrical connection 194. The validation system 192 may be positioned or located at the venue or the event site. The main computer system 188 may also be located at the venue or the event site or it may be located at a remote location. The validation system 192 is used to read either a paper ticket or information from the handheld device 182, in order to allow a customer into an event. For example, the handheld device 182 may send a signal, such as an audio signal 196, to the validation system 192. The validation system 192 would then authenticate or validate the signal 196 to determine if the customer should be allowed entrance into the event);

(b) causing the event organizer apparatus to form event information unique to the event/(c) causing the event organizer apparatus to form seller information authorizing the electronic ticket distribution authentication apparatus to sell electronic tickets to the event, and (d) causing the event organizer apparatus to register the event information and the seller information in the electronic ticket platform center by the event organizer apparatus, ([0006], [0010], and [0020], lines 10-22 shows that the system is further capable of connecting or finding a website being hosted by a vendor computer system, and the customer computer is allowed access to the vendor computer system through the ISP system by use of a commonly available web browser or similar software package, also in [0022], it is shown that a validation system connected to or associated

with the vendor computer system is placed at the location or site of the event, and a ticket is used at the validation system in order to enter the event, where information read or entered from the ticket is transmitted from the validation system to the vendor computer system, where it is verified that the ticket is valid for the event, and then a signal is sent from the vendor system to the validation system which permits the customer to enter, also, [0026] shows "The vendor computer system 108 is capable of hosting a website which presents various pages to the customer computer 102. A customer operating the customer computer 102 is able to interact with the website being hosted by the vendor computer system 108 to review events, select an event, purchase tickets, receive tickets, and pay for tickets. In particular, a customer may be presented with various screens with such screens presenting information concerning events, seating available for such events, payment methods, and ticket prices for each event." In this case, since the customer is able to go on the vendor's site to purchase tickets for a ticket price, it is obvious that the ability to sell tickets is suggested by Lewis).

(e) causing the event organizer apparatus to receive
a request to distribute the electronic ticket information concerning a plurality of
electronic tickets for the event from a user of a first information storage chip (Lewis:
paragraphs 0005; 0020; 0026; 0028; 0030),

- (f) causing the electronic ticket distribution authentication apparatus to determine whether the electronic ticket information is to be distributed to the user by performing distribution authentication processing;
- (g) causing the electronic ticket distribution authentication apparatus to register an authentication result in the electronic ticket platform center as ticket issuing information (Lewis: paragraphs 0010; 0021; 0026; 0028; 0030; The customer pays for the ticket and a record of the transaction is created in the vendor computer system/main computer system.) and
- (h) causing the electronic ticket platform center to form an electronic ticket information master based on the event information registered by the event organizer apparatus (Lewis: paragraphs 0010; 0021; 0026; 0028; 0030)
- (i) causing the electronic ticket platform center to relate the ticket issuing information registered by the electronic ticket distribution authentication apparatus to the electronic ticket information master (Lewis: paragraphs 0010; 0021; 0025; 0027; 0030- 0031), and
- (j) causing the electronic ticket platform center to write the electronic ticket information concerning an electronic ticket for attending the event into the first information storage chip based on the ticket issuing information by performing ticket issuing processing (Lewis: paragraphs 0010; 0021; 0025; 0027; 0030-0031; see smart card, handheld device 112, and wireless handheld device 182),

Lewis teaches purchasing one or more tickets for an event (Lewis: paragraph 0010), but does not explicitly teach (j) causing the electronic ticket platform center to write electronic ticket information concerning a plurality of electronic tickets for attending the event into the information storage chip based on ticket issuing information by performing ticket issuing processing.

However, Takayama in [0933] shows "In this system, an electronic ticket, an electronic payment card, or an electronic telephone card stored in the mobile user terminal 100 can be transferred to a different user who owns a mobile user terminal. With this function, multiple tickets can be purchased and transferred to friends, etc., or an electronic payment card or an electronic telephone card can be provided as a gift, so that the usage range can be expanded."

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to disclose teach (j) causing the electronic ticket platform center to write electronic ticket information concerning a plurality of electronic tickets for attending the event into the information storage chip based on ticket issuing information by performing ticket issuing processing with the motivation of permitting the storage of ticket information for multiple tickets.

Lewis teaches in paragraphs 0027; 0029-0031; Lewis teaches the electronic ticket is structured in a format that allows the handheld device to transmit and receive ticket information to and from the vendor computer system/validation system. In addition, [0025] shows that a card 60 may be used in place of the ticket 22, where the card 60 may also be a smart card which has embedded within the card a chip which has recorded therein information related to the validation code or UPC, seat location, and event. The Examiner notes that even as amended, the claim merely recites the ticket is structured in a format that allows for the ticket to be assigned to another information storage chip. The step of actively performing the assigning step is not positively recited in the claim. Lewis teaches the ticket is structured in a format that allows for assigning the ticket to another information storage chip, which reads on the present claim limitation. Moreover, transmitting assigned electronic ticket information from the information storage chip to the vendor computer system and back to an information storage chip (assigning a ticket) is a duplication of parts. See *In re Harza*, 124 USPQ 378 (CCPA 1960) (Mere duplication of parts has no patentable significance unless new and unexpected result is produced). There is no new or unexpected result produced since the ticket information is simply assigned to an information storage chip.

However, Lewis still does not explicitly teach: (k) causing the electronic ticket platform center to:

- (i) assign the at least one of the plurality of electronic tickets from the first information storage chip to the at least a second information storage chip

However, Takayama in [0933] shows "In this system, an electronic ticket, an electronic payment card, or an electronic telephone card stored in the mobile user terminal 100 can be transferred to a different user who owns a mobile user terminal. With this function, multiple tickets can be purchased and transferred to friends, etc., or an electronic payment card or an electronic telephone card can be provided as a gift, so that the usage range can be expanded", where the mobile devices have IC cards attached to them as shown in [2713] , also, since Takayama discloses that an electronic ticket, an electronic payment card, or an electronic telephone card is stored in the mobile user terminal, it is obvious that more than one storage chip is used since some type of storage means is necessary to store the electronic information of the multiple user terminals or portable devices, also see [0936]-[0937] and [2249]-[2252] shows more discussion regarding transferring tickets from user to user via wireless communications (non-contact).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to disclose the following: (i) assign at least one of the plurality of electronic tickets from the first information storage chip to at least a second information storage chip which is separate the first information storage chip with the motivation of assigning tickets from one entity possessing a mobile terminal to another.

Lewis teaches purchasing one or more tickets for an event (Lewis: paragraph 0010), but does not explicitly teach:

wherein the first information storage chip is mounted on a first portable device that performs non-contact communication, and the second information storage chip is mounted on a second portable device that performs non-contact communication.

However, Takayama, in [2721] also discloses that "The IC card 14102 includes two interfaces, one for a contact type IC card and one for a non-contact IC card" thereby suggesting that when the multiple electronic tickets are purchased and transferred to friends, this can be done via non-contact communication. Also see [0936]-[0937] and [2249]-[2252] shows more discussion regarding transferring tickets from user to user via wireless communications (non-contact).

It therefore would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to disclose wherein the first information storage chip is mounted on a first portable device that performs non-contact communication, and the second information storage chip is mounted on a second portable device that performs non-contact communication with the motivation of showing a common contactless communication set-up between portable devices.

Lewis teaches purchasing one or more tickets for an event (Lewis: paragraph 0010), but does not explicitly teach (ii) delete or nullify the at least one of the plurality of electronic tickets from the first information storage chip in response to said at least one of the

plurality of electronic tickets being assigned from the first information storage chip to the second information storage chip, wherein the first information storage chip is mounted on a first portable device and the second information storage chip is mounted on a second portable device separate from the first portable device.

However, Takayama teaches in [0247]According to the invention cited in claim 54, the second electronic wallet, upon receiving the ticket transfer certificate message, generates a ticket receipt message confirming that the ticket transfer certificate message has been received, and transmits the ticket receipt message via the wireless communication means to the first electronic wallet; and the first electronic wallet, upon receiving the ticket receipt message, deletes the electronic ticket stored in the second storage means thereof. Therefore, the electronic ticket can be precisely transferred, and the problems that may accompany such a transfer can be avoided.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the method of Lewis to have included deleting or nullifying the at least one of the plurality of electronic tickets from the first information storage chip in response to said at least one of the plurality of electronic tickets being assigned from the first information storage chip to the second information storage chip with the motivation of providing inaccessibility to other tickets after the assignment.

Neither Lewis nor Takayama disclose (i) receive a password, specified by the user of the first information storage chip and to be entered by a user of a second information storage chip, for writing at least one of the plurality of electronic tickets into the second information storage chip which is separate from the first information storage chip; or

(iv) write the at least one of the plurality of electronic tickets to the second information storage chip after the user of the second information storage chip enters the password specified by the user of the first information storage chip,

However, Drews et al discloses in the abstract : "Portable data carriers are known for different applications, for example as so-called smart cards for bank transactions or for access control or for combined applications. For the various applications different subdivisions of the write/read memory in the data carrier are required so that given zones cannot be read and other zones can only be read and not be written. This subdivision is customarily implemented during the manufacture of the card or the chip. In order to obtain a chip which can be flexibly adapted to various applications, in accordance with the invention the memory in the data carrier is subdivided into a number of blocks which are inhibited from reading or writing by read inhibit and write inhibit information stored in different locations in one or two blocks of the memory. The writing in non-inhibited blocks can additionally be made dependent on a previous transmission of a correct password, the password also being stored in one of the blocks in the memory of the data carrier. As a result, the password as well as the inhibit information can be treated as normal information and, if necessary, they can also

be repeatedly overwritten. When the block storing the write inhibit information, and preferably also the password, is inhibited from overwriting, part of the memory of the data carrier becomes a read-only memory." Also see Col. 1, lines 7-14, "The invention relates to a datacarrier for detachable coupling to a terminal for data exchange between the terminal and the datacarrier, the datacarrier comprising a read/write memory and inhibiting means, arranged for inhibiting or enabling reading and/or writing in the memory by the terminal. The invention also relates to a method for writing into such a data carrier and to an integrated circuit for use in such a datacarrier".Also see Col.2,lines 11-14, "enabling writing conditional upon whether the password information matches the password when the mode bit has a first value".

Also see Col. 6, line56-col. 7, line 17, The stored inhibit information is applied, via the connection 19, to a comparator 18 which compares this inhibit information with the block address on the connection 15 which is supplied by the addressing device 14. When the relevant block is not inhibited from writing, the comparator 18 generates a signal on the lead 29 which is applied to one input of the AND-element 26. When the value of the mode bit stored in the register 22 indicates that no complete password need be supplied to enable writing in the memory, the register 22 outputs a signal on the lead 23 which reaches, via the OR-element 24 and the lead 25, the other input of the AND-element 26, so that an enable signal appears on the lead 27. *However, when the mode bit has the other binary value, the correct password information must be applied to the data carrier, and hence to the control device 12, prior to writing; the control device 12 then applies the password information, via the connection 11, to the comparator 20 in which it is*

compared with the password stored in the register. In the case of correspondence, the output 21 outputs a signal which is applied, via the OR-element 24 and the lead 25, to the other input of the AND-element 26, thus generating an enable signal on the lead 27. Preferably, the password information is applied only once after the coupling of the data carrier to the terminal, the comparison result produced by the comparator being stored until the write operation, for example for a plurality of blocks, has been completed or until the data carrier is removed from the terminal again, so that a continuous signal is present on the lead 21. Also see Col. 9, lines 29-34, Subsequent to the mode information MI, if having the binary value "1", the password information PI is transmitted. If the mode bit MB has the binary value "1", the password information is compared with the password PW in the data carrier, and the further write operation is enabled in the case of correspondence.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to disclose (i) receive a password, specified by the user of the first information storage chip and to be entered by a user of a second information storage chip, for writing at least one of the plurality of electronic tickets into the second information storage chip which is separate from the first information storage chip; or

(iv) write the at least one of the plurality of electronic tickets to the second information storage chip after the user of the second information storage chip enters the password specified by the user of the first information storage chip,

with the motivation of using a password in order to transmit information from one chip to the next.

As per claim 30, Lewis further teaches wherein the seller information (a) authorizes a plurality of electronic ticket distribution authentication apparatuses and (b) includes the number of electronic tickets to be handled by each of the plurality of electronic ticket distribution authentication apparatuses, ([0020], lines 10-22 shows that the system is further capable of connecting or finding a website being hosted by a vendor computer system, and the customer computer is allowed access to the vendor computer system through the ISP system by use of a commonly available web browser or similar software package, also in [0022], it is shown that a validation system connected to or associated with the vendor computer system is placed at the location or site of the event, and a ticket is used at the validation system in order to enter the event, where information read or entered from the ticket is transmitted from the validation system to the vendor computer system, where it is verified that the ticket is valid for the event, and then a signal is sent from the vendor system to the validation system which permits the customer to enter, which in this case, represents authorizing the ticket transaction, and also in [0026], it is shown that a customer operating the customer computer is able to interact with the website being hosted by the vendor computer system to review events, select an event, purchase tickets, receive tickets, and pay for tickets, and customers may also be presented with various screens with such screens presenting information concerning events, seating available for such events, payment methods, and ticket prices for each event. In this case, since the customer is given payment option

methods, and the customer goes through the vendor website to get these payment options in order to authorize by the validation segment, this suggests that this seller information on the website authorizes a plurality of electronic ticket distribution authentication apparatuses through the presentation of payment options. In addition, since this transaction through the vendor website allows for purchase and pay for tickets, the number of electronic tickets to be handled by each of the plurality of electronic ticket distribution authentication apparatuses suggested since one needs to know the number of tickets that one needs to purchase so he or she can pay the proper amount.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the number of electronic tickets to be handled by each of the plurality of electronic ticket distribution authentication apparatuses with the motivation of showing that the number of tickets must be incorporated in order to effectively manage ticket operations for event transactions.

As per claim 31, Lewis further teaches which includes distributing the first information storage chip as a membership card according to a membership registration via the electronic ticket distribution authentication apparatus (Lewis: paragraph 0025).

As per claim 33, Lewis further teaches (a) sending the request to distribute the electronic ticket information from the user is sent and b) causing the electronic ticket

platform center to perform the ticket issuing processing via a network (Lewis: paragraphs 0020; 0027).

As per claim 34, Lewis further teaches:

(a) sending the request to distribute the electronic ticket information from the and
(b) causing the electronic ticket platform center to perform the ticket issuing
processing via an electronic ticket information distribution store terminal, (Lewis:
paragraphs 0005-0006; 0020; 0027).

As per claim 35, Lewis further teaches which includes causing the electronic ticket
platform center to require

authentication processing when the electronic ticket information is written into the first
information storage chip (Lewis: paragraphs 0010; 0021; 0026-0028; 0030).

As per claim 62, Lewis in view of Takayama does not explicitly teach wherein the
plurality of electronic tickets written to the first information storage chip correspond to a
plurality of consecutive seats for the same event. However, any difference in the type of
tickets stored is solely found in the non- functional descriptive material of the stored
information. Non-functional descriptive material cannot lend patentability to an invention
that would have otherwise been anticipated by the prior art. *In re Ngai*, 367 F.3d 1336,
1339; 70 USPQ2d 1862, 1864 (Fed. Cir. 2004); cf. *In re Gulack*, 703 F.2d 1381, 1385;
217 USPQ 401,404 (Fed. Cir. 1983) (when descriptive material is not functionally

related to the substrate, the descriptive material will not distinguish the invention from the prior art in terms of patentability).

4. Claims 64, 65, 66 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lewis, U.S. Publication No. 2003/0105641, in further in view of Takayama (US 20090125429 A1), and further in view of Sasaki (US 7392226).

As per claim 64, neither Lewis, nor Takayama discloses:

before assigning the at least one of the plurality of electronic tickets from the first information storage chip to the second information storage chip, causing the electronic ticket platform center to:

(a) receive identification information of the second information storage chip specified by the user of the first information storage chip;

Sasaki discloses a system where electronic tickets are stored, and in col. 11, lines 20-31, "The electronic ticket code 1011 is code information indicating the type of electronic ticket. The electronic ticket ID 1012 is identification information unique to each electronic ticket. The electronic ticket information 1013 is ASCII information indicating the contents of the electronic ticket; the title of the electronic ticket, the date and time, the place, the seat type, and the promoter, and information as to whether or not the electronic ticket can be transferred to another person, and if the electronic ticket is a coupon ticket, use condition information of the number of coupons at the issuing time,

etc., are described with added tag information indicating the type of information." Also, see col. 30, lines 5-14 shows that "Third, the network electronic ticket in the network-linked electronic ticket contains a certificate describing the identification information of the network-linked electronic ticket and the network-linked electronic ticket storage terminal. Thus, the personal consumer need not register his or her ID or password for the provider and need not enter the ID or password each time and safety is enhanced and the convenience of the personal consumer is also improved. The service provider need not provide a database for managing the information of the registered membership IDs, passwords, etc., and the costs of the entire system can be reduced" In this case, since there is a certificate that describes the identification information which relates to ID and password, it is obvious that when determining if the ticket can be transferred to another person, this ID and password is applied and therefore the following is suggested by Sasaki:

before assigning the at least one of the plurality of electronic tickets from the first information storage chip to the second information storage chip, causing the electronic ticket platform center to:

(a) receive identification information of the second information storage chip specified by the user of the first information storage chip;

(b)

receive a password, specified by the user of the first information storage chip, for writing the at least one of the plurality of electronic tickets into the second information storage chip.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to disclose the above limitation with the motivation of applying an ID/password combination when a transfer of stored electronic ticket information takes place.

As per claim 65, neither Lewis nor Takayama discloses:
before assigning the at least one of the plurality of electronic tickets from the first information storage chip to the second information storage chip, causing the electronic ticket platform center to:
before assigning the at least one of the plurality of electronic tickets from the first information storage chip to the second information storage chip, causing the electronic ticket platform center to:
(c) request the user of the second information storage chip input an authentication password for writing the at least one of the plurality of electronic tickets into the second information storage chip;
(d) receive the authentication password;
(e) authenticate the authentication password input by the user of the second information storage chip with the password specified by the user of the first information storage chip.

However, Sasaki discloses in col. 2, lines 30-36 that it is common as shown in some prior art applications, "to receive information providing service aiming at specific (ticket-purchasing) personal consumers, the personal consumer needs to previously register authentication information of membership ID, password, etc., in the service provider. To receive service, the personal consumer needs also to enter the membership ID and the password each time".

It therefore would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to disclose the above limitations with the motivation of applying an ID and password combination when a transfer of stored electronic ticket information takes place.

As per claim 66, neither Lewis, nor Takayama discloses:
before receiving the identification information of the second information storage chip specified by the user of the first information storage chip, and before receiving the password, specified by the user of the first information storage chip, for writing the at least one of the plurality of electronic tickets into the second information storage chip, causing the electronic ticket platform center to:
receive a login ID and a login password associated with first information storage chip;
and
authenticate the login ID and the login password associated with the first information

storage chip, wherein the login ID is separate from the identification information of the second information storage chip specified by the user of the first information storage chip, and the login password is separate from the password, specified by the user of the first information storage chip, for writing the at least one of the plurality of electronic tickets into the second information storage chip:

However, Sasaki discloses that it is common where electronic tickets are stored, and in col. 2 lines 7-15, shows the registering process for a login ID.

It therefore would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to disclose the above limitation with the motivation of applying an ID and password combination when a transfer of stored electronic ticket information takes place.

5. Claim 32 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lewis, U.S. Publication No. 2003/0105641 in view of Takayama (US 20090125429 A1), and further in view of Drews et al (US 5467081), and further in view of Gebb, U.S. Patent No. 6,067,532.

As per claim 32, neither Lewis nor Takayama nor Drews et al explicitly teach wherein a predetermined time period is provided between the distribution authentication

processing performed by the electronic ticket distribution authentication apparatus and the ticket issuing processing performed by the electronic ticket platform center. Gebb teaches a ticket server compares the current date with a predetermined time period before an event in order to determine if it is acceptable to redistribute a ticket to a new customer (Gebb: col. 2, lines 40-43; col. 7, lines 42-50).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention to disclose wherein a predetermined time period is provided between the distribution authentication processing performed by the electronic ticket distribution authentication apparatus and the ticket issuing processing performed by the electronic ticket platform center with the motivation of preventing the purchase of tickets when there is insufficient time to obtain the tickets and attend the event (Gebb: col. 8, lines 6-11).

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed 7/30/12 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant amends claims to disclose "(i) receive a password, specified by the user of the first information storage chip and to be entered by a user of a second information storage chip, for writing at least one of the plurality of electronic tickets into the second information storage chip which is separate from the first information storage chip; or

(iv) write the at least one of the plurality of electronic tickets to the second information storage chip after the user of the second information storage chip enters the password specified by the user of the first information storage chip"

However, as now disclosed above in the rejection, Drews et al (US 5467081).discloses these limitations.

Conclusion

7. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Akiba Allen whose telephone number is 571-272-6734. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9am-5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Hayes can be reached on 571-272-6708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

- Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system, Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

A. R. B.
October 11, 2012

/Akiba K Allen/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3628